

OPC Bulletin

McCullough: Truman for President

By Camille Cunningham

How would Harry Truman do if he were to run for President in 1992? "He would sweep the country!" exclaimed David McCullough, the historian and esteemed author of the bestselling biography *Truman*. McCullough spoke about his new book and the upcoming Presidential election to a packed audience of almost 70 Overseas Press Club members on October 22nd.

The author's resounding admiration for the 33rd U.S. President exemplifies why both President Bush and Democratic candidate Bill Clinton have compared themselves to Truman in their bids for the next Presidency.

"Truman had the quality to make people feel better by being around them," McCullough remarked. "His 'whistle-stop' speeches were off the cuff. He spoke from conviction. His handshaking was not perfunctory, he really liked doing it. He was the most democratic President with a lower case 'd'. He really loved people."

Ray Price, OPC treasurer and chief speechwriter for Richard Nixon, who introduced McCullough at the OPC event, said, "This campaign has made 1992 the year of Harry Truman."

Indeed, Bush and Clinton's bus and train tours through mid-America imitate Truman's 1948 campaign in which Truman criss-crossed the country by rail.

Both candidates have cited the new



David McCullough at OPC

biography, and, in fact, claimed it was at their bedside. "Jim Baker was seen entering a top-level strategy meeting with the book under his arm," McCullough joked.

But the author claimed it was Ross Perot's plainspeaking that attracted people today the way Truman did then. "That is the fundamental appeal of Ross Perot," McCullough remarked.

"But Perot has never shown what he stands for. He couldn't even take the heat in the kitchen. He wants to cut through the mush, but he is not Truman."

President Bush's campaign situation parallels Truman's. He is the underdog incumbent struggling to keep up with two strong Reagan terms of which he was Vice President. Just as Truman was a longshot incumbent born in FDR's shadow.

"Nobody thought Truman would win but Truman," said McCullough. "Not even his aides thought he had a prayer."

But, as McCullough pointed out, the state of the country is dissimilar today. Truman's campaign year sported a robust economy and a popular Congress. Politics were also a different ballgame. "It would have been inconceivable for Truman to ask Secretary of State George

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Journalists And Truth At Risk

The quality of coverage of violent foreign crises and the risks they present to journalists will be the subject of a special Overseas Press Club panel from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9 at 3 W. 51st St.

The second year of war in former Yugoslavia has brought with it death to an American journalist. David Kaplan, ABC news producer, was gunned down by sniper fire in August. Since then, at least two dozen other journalists from around the world have been killed in the same region.

Millions of people depend on the information overseas reporters provide. But recent global developments have made reporting overseas more expensive, more complex, and more dangerous.

Shock waves from the collapse of Communism are being felt from Central Asia to the heart of Europe.

Cold War barriers are falling in Asia too, redefining old enmities and opening the way to a new zone of prosperity.

Western news organizations and their reporters trying to cover the story are confronting harassment, strife and even death.

At the same time, high costs are forcing the shutdown of bureaus, downgrading of staff and the near demise of UPI.

Do these pressures threaten the ability of Americans to understand the world?

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OPC GROWS

6 NEW MEMBERS

Active Resident:
Stanley Freed, international news editor, *Business Week*, New York; **Bernard Gayzer**, freelance, New York; **John Lucht**, President, John Lucht Consultancy & *The Viceroy Press*, New York; **Linda Rogers**, editor, *World Press Review* magazine, New York; **Bill Seamans**, Seamans Media Services, New York (reinstated).

Active Non-Resident: **Patricia Milton**, correspondent, *Associated Press*, Virginia.

MEMOIRS PUBLISHED

ADVENTURES OVERSEAS

Risks Worth Taking: The Odyssey of a Foreign Correspondent by longtime OPCer **Bernard S. Redmont** has been published by University Press of America, Inc., in cloth and paperback.

It is the memoir of a foreign correspondent, professor and dean who, in the course of an

adventurous life, experienced a number of fascinating personal crises, confronting physical and moral risks.

Author and commentator Rod MacLeish calls it "superb, enthralling, riveting."

Redmont is an OPC award winning journalist with CBS News and *U.S. News & World Report*.

The book is available from UPA, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706 or call (800) 462-6420.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

**YOUSUF KARSH &
GEORGE SILK**

Photographic Administrators, Inc. (PAI) has invited OPC members to its Honor Awards Luncheon in Sardi's Belasco Room on November 17th from noon to 2 p.m.

Honorees are two esteemed LIFE magazine photographers, Yousuf Karsh and George Silk. A slide show of their work will be shown. The cost is \$27. Checks should be mailed to PAI treasurer Michael Danowski, 35-50 77th

St., Jackson heights, NY 11372-4531. For information call (212) 787-0740.

PRO PHOTO

A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR SHOOTERS

OPC member and professional photographer, **Charles Rotkin**, published a new version of *The Professional Photographer's Survival Guide*.

Rotkin's work has appeared in such publications as *Time*, *Life*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Business Week*.

The book is available at bookstores or from the publisher.

To order send \$19.95 to Writer's Digest Books, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207. Or call (800) 289-0963.

ROBERT TRUMBULL

OBITUARY

Robert Trumbull, 80, long-time OPC member and *New York Times* correspondent for over thirty years, died in Honolulu October 11 of cancer.

Trumbull had covered Asia and the Pacific region extensively for the *Times* and

was Tokyo bureau chief for many years.

The OPC named his book *The Scrutable East* the year's best on foreign affairs in 1964.

He is survived by three daughters, Suzanne Trumbull of Tokyo, and Joan Trumbull and Stephanie Norris, of Sydney, Australia

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

LETTERS TO TUNISIA, ISRAEL

Norman Schorr, chairman of the Freedom of the Press Committee, recently sent letters to the president of the Republic of Tunisia and the Ministry of Justice of Israel on behalf of journalists in those countries.

Gideon Meron, a reporter for Ma'ariv in Israel was recently arrested for his refusal to reveal a source.

Hamadi Jebali, editor of Al-Fair in Tunisia, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for "aggression with the intention of changing the nature of the state," and "membership in an illegal organization."

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Truman

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Marshall to step down to run his campaign."

McCullough said his book debunked the myth that Truman was a simple man. Although he was the only President this century who never went to college, McCullough's anecdotes of a farm boy who spent what little money he had on Mark Twain's novels and Shakespearean plays depicted a complex and well-educated teenager.

He also spoke candidly of Truman's sensitivity to the atomic bomb and its aftermath, reporting that Truman once banned a man from his office forever for speaking on the subject uncouthly.

Besides deciding to use the atomic bomb, Truman was responsible for the Marshall Plan for the recovery of post-war Europe, the Truman Doctrine which supported countries in danger of Soviet encroachment, the Berlin airlift, and he was the first U.S. President to recognize Israel. "Each was a potential tinder box capable of exploding into WWII," McCullough said.

Domestically, Truman worked to increase aid to education and housing, and raised the minimum wage.

He fought for civil rights, desegregating the armed forces. "His advisors said to drop civil rights," McCullough noted.

"But to his credit, he didn't, saying he would rather lose to a good cause."

"It is a misconception that we're only seeing now what a great President Harry Truman was," said McCullough. "There were many articles written then, predicting he would be considered one of the best Presidents of all time."

Ten years in the writing, *Truman* has



ON THE JOB, AT RISK: Associated Press staff photographer Boris Yurchenko (center) in Afghanistan with rebel troops in 1989 shortly before last Soviet troops withdrew.

been on the bestseller list now for 19 weeks and has sold nearly a half a million copies. Ray Price openly wondered which came first, the book or the candidates' mimicking of Truman.

In his opening remarks he said, "Although he may not have intended it that way, if Bush does pull it off David McCullough may be able to claim some of the credit."

Unlike Margaret Truman, who said it was absurd for President Bush to compare himself to her father, McCullough had a bi-partisan view.

"Anyone should be able to take inspiration from this book—all three candidates," he said. "It is an open tent. Anyone should come in and be able to learn from this fellow."

Perhaps it is not as important whether one of the 1992 Presidential candidates gets to the White House emulating Harry Truman, but rather if he lives up to the Man from Missouri's legacy once he arrives.

At Risk

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Panelists will be Tom Kent, international editor of the Associated Press; Allen Alter, foreign editor of CBS; and professor Donald Read, author of the newly released *The Power of News: The History of Reuters*. Josh Friedman of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism will moderate.

Kent previously served in Moscow, Tehen, Sydney and Brussels, while Alter served an extended tour for UPI in Israel.

Friedman, a former international editor for *Newsday*, also is a board member of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The program is 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, November 9, at 3 W. 51st St.

There is no charge but reservations are required, please call 983-4655.

Nov. Panel: Journalists At Risk

Monday, November 9th, 6 to 8 p.m. Panel: Truth at Risk, or What's Going on Over There? Tom Kent, international editor of the Associated Press; Allen Alter, foreign editor of CBS; Professor Donald Read, author of the newly released *The Power of News: The History of Reuters*; Josh Friedman, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. 3 West 51 St. Free. Reservations required: Mary Novick 983-4655. See story, Page 1.

Tuesday, April 27, annual awards dinner, Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York.

Early December, Christmas party and new member reception. Date to be announced.

December program, Walter Isaacson, Henry Kissinger biographer. Details in December *Bulletin*

January, scholarship luncheon

February, student seminar, how to become a foreign correspondent.

Fellowships

The Institute of International Education (IIE) is offering Professional Development Fellowships to Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and the Baltics. The program supports young specialists in journalism, business, economics, law, public administration and international relations.

There is a new deadline for applications, in case you had previously received information. For the 1993-94 competition applications must be received by February 1, 1993.

Fellowships are open to U.S. citizens currently enrolled in graduate or professional schools with at least two years of training. Recent graduates of graduate or professional schools are also eligible. For more information write to Professional Development Fellowships, U.S. Student Programs, IIE, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. Or call (212) 984-5326 or 5330.

**The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
310 Madison Avenue, Suite 2116
New York, NY 10017 USA**

Scholarships

Students interested in careers as foreign correspondents are invited to apply for two \$1000 scholarships offered by the OPC. Graduate or undergraduate students are eligible by submitting:

- An essay up to 500 words describing an area of the world, outside the U.S., or an international topic that the applicant believes deserves more and better coverage in the media, and the principal reasons why.

- A one page cover letter in which the applicant describes his or her background, involvement or special interest in international affairs, and any other relevant information (internships, awards, overseas study, education, etc.). Do not send resumes, clippings, photos or other material.

Send to H.L. Stevenson, chairman, Scholarship Committee, Overseas Press Club of America, Suite 2116, 310 Madison Ave., NY, NY 10017. Applications must be received by Dec. 7, 1992.